

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for an informality. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-14 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over BROUWER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,124). Claims 3, 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over BROUWER et al. in view of HAMMOND et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,208,846). Claims 4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over BROUWER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,124) in view of ZEY (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,953).

Claims 5 and 17 were objected-to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of base and any intervening claims.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of the allowability of the subject matter recited in claims 5 and 17.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Upon entry of the present Response, claim 14 will have been amended to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. In this regard, the informality noted in the outstanding Official Action will have been corrected by the amendments to claim 14. In particular, claim 14 will have been amended to recite “a control interface, said ~~platform-control interface~~ enabling the formatting and transfer of data ~~from~~ to each

of said plurality of disparate systems”. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that antecedent basis has been provided for each of the features recited in claim 14. In view of the herein-contained amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-14 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over BROUWER et al. In this regard, in the claimed combination, claim 1 recites “a platform that supports a control interface and a different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” (emphasis added). The outstanding Official Action asserts that BROUWER discloses the “different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” at col. 3, lines 23-35 and at col. 5, lines 28-52. Applicants respectfully submit that the Official Action is in error, and BROUWER does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features at col. 3, lines 23-25 or at col. 5, lines 28-52.

Rather, col. 3, lines 23-35 of BROUWER is directed to a “hardware/software interface 16”. In particular, col. 3, lines 23-35 of BROUWER discloses that “hardware/software interface (16) uses a layered library approach allowing the test scripts to perform actions via API function calls”. Col. 3, lines 23-35 of BROUWER also discloses that the hardware interface libraries support “Dialogic accessible telephone lines, terminal, video, X.25 and TCP/IP interfaces”. However, the above-noted disclosure

in BROUWER does not disclose a user interface, let alone a “different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” (emphasis added), as recited in claim 1.

Further, as can be seen in Figure 1 of BROUWER, as well as the accompanying description of Figure 1 (including the description at col. 3, lines 23-35), it is not the “hardware/software interface 16” of BROUWER that provides a user interface; rather it is the “system control and user interface 12” of BROUWER that provides a user interface. For example, BROUWER discloses at col. 3, lines 2-15, “[t]he system control 12 interface provides an entry point to the Systest Workbench and, like any PM GUI [Graphical User Interface] interface, allows the user to select and save display criteria”. However, the “system control and user interface 12” of BROUWER is not a “different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” as recited in claim 1; nor does the outstanding Official Action assert that this feature recited in claim 1 is disclosed by the “system control and user interface 12” of BROUWER.

Furthermore, BROUWER does not disclose “a different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” at col. 5, lines 28-52. Rather, col. 5, lines 28-52 of BROUWER is directed to the interface between the testing device and the access libraries that are provided for hardware devices. For example, the above-noted portion of BROUWER discusses “[t]he interface to each of the systems under test... in terms of the packets sent over the hardware line, the method of access, or the desired action in reaction

to a similar command”. In other words, the interface described at col. 5 is not a user interface; rather, the interface described at col. 5 is the interface to each of the systems under test.

BROUWER also explains, at col. 5, lines 34-54, that the access libraries for each hardware device being tested include a “hardware interface”, the “functional interface” and the “hybrid interface”. As should be apparent to the Examiner, none of the above-noted interfaces is a “user interface”, let alone “a different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” as is recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that BROUWER does not disclose or suggest a “different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems”.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that BROUWER does not disclose “each and every” feature recited in claim 1, as would be required for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) to be proper. Applicants further submit that none of the other references applied singly or in any proper combination in the outstanding Official Action discloses, suggests or renders obvious, the above-noted features recited in claim 1; nor does the outstanding Official Action assert that any other reference discloses such features in the claimed combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Further, if the Examiner maintains the above-noted rejection of claim 1 over

BROUWER, Applicants respectfully request a specific indication of which features in BROUWER are believed to disclose each of “a plurality of disparate systems” and “a different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate systems” as recited in claim 1.

Applicants further submit that each of claims 8 and 14 are allowable, at least for reasons similar to the above-noted reasons for the allowability of claim 1, insofar as each of claims 8 and 14 recite features similar to the above-noted features of claim 1 that are not disclosed or suggested in the claimed combination by BROUWER or any other reference applied in the outstanding Official Action.

Applicants further submit that each of claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15-20 is allowable at least because each depends, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, at least for each of the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

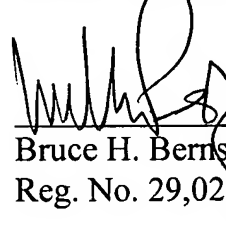
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

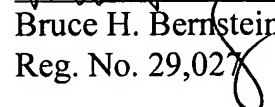
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Applicants have further discussed the features recited in Applicants' claims and have pointed out how these features are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the disclosure of the references applied in the Official Action.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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